

The Cornwall Independent School

Uniform Policy

This document which applies to the whole school, including the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), is available on request, from the School Office, and can be made available in large print or other accessible format if required, from the School Office.

We have a whole school approach to safeguarding, which is the golden thread that runs throughout every aspect of the school. All our school policies support our approach to safeguarding (child protection). Our fundamental priority is our children and their wellbeing; this is first and foremost.

Scope: This policy is a live document that is sensitive to our working practices and is subject to change according to the needs of The Cornwall Independent School (TCIS). All who work, volunteer or supply services to our school have an equal responsibility to understand and implement this policy and its procedures both within and outside of normal school hours, including activities away from school. All employees and volunteers are required to state that they have read, understood and will abide by this policy and its procedural documents and confirm this by signing the *Policies Register*.

Legal Status: Complies with The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations currently in force and other statutory and best practice documentation cited in this document.

Monitoring, Review and Adaptation: The text of this policy is **necessary** and proportionate to meet the needs of The Cornwall Independent School, supporting those who work with our pupils, **making clearer** the responsibilities of school staff, volunteers, proprietor and the Governing Advisory Body. These arrangements are subject to continuous monitoring, refinement, and audit by the Headteacher. The Governance Advisory Body is committed to regularly reviewing and updating our policies to ensure they remain relevant and effective in supporting our school's mission and values, inclusive of its implementation and the efficiency with which the related duties have been implemented. This review will be formally documented in writing. Any deficiencies or weaknesses recognised in arrangements or procedures will be remedied immediately and without delay. All staff will be informed of the updated/reviewed arrangements, and it will be made available to them in writing or electronically.

The Policy Owner is Miss Louise Adams, supported by the Education and Compliance Officer.

Reviewed: September 2026

Next Review: September 2027 (or sooner, to reflect any material change in statutory or best practice requirements)



Miss Louise Adams
Headteacher

Introduction and aims: The Cornwall Independent School understands that simply wearing a uniform on its own is unlikely to improve learning per se, however, we believe that a uniform worn well is part of a broader school improvement process which takes into account the school ethos, improvement of behaviour and discipline and instils a sense of pride in pupils. We believe uniforms provide a sense of belonging for students. They are helpful in fostering a good learning environment and help promote the ethos of our school.

We believe that our uniform plays a key role in:

- Promoting the ethos of a school
- Providing a sense of belonging and identity
- Setting an appropriate tone for education

In developing our School Uniform Policy, consideration was made relating to:

- engaging with parents and pupils when designing the uniform policy or when making any significant changes - these views are considered in determining the final policy;
- considering how the introduction of the proposed uniform policy might affect groups represented in The Cornwall Independent School especially those who share protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010;
- considering how comfortable the proposed uniform will be for pupils;
- taking a sensible approach to allow for exceptions to be made during extreme weather;
- ensuring that their uniform is suitable and safe for pupils who walk or cycle to school, for instance, by allowing pupils to wear a coat which they could be visible in when it is dark going home;
- choosing a PE kit which is practical, comfortable, appropriate to the activity involved and affordable;
- ensuring the final policy is published on The Cornwall Independent School website, so it is easy for parents (including parents of prospective pupils) to access and understand;
- considering carefully the risk of a challenge to the policy and consider the appropriate insurance cover.

Inclusivity: When making decisions about our uniform policy, The Cornwall Independent School understands its obligations under the [Human Rights Act 1998](#) and the [Equality Act 2010](#). The Cornwall Independent School uniform policy considers the impact on pupils who share a protected characteristic. The relevant protected characteristics to consider when developing and implementing our uniform policy are:

- Sex
- Religion or belief
- Race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin)
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy

The Cornwall Independent School Governance Advisory Board and SLT ensures that in developing and implementing the uniform policy, key considerations such as safeguarding requirements and the health and safety of their pupils, are taken into account. The Cornwall Independent School is sensitive to the needs of different cultures, races and religions and acts reasonably in accommodating these needs, without compromising important school policies, such as school safety or discipline. The Cornwall Independent School is willing to consider reasonable requests for flexibility in the uniform policy for an individual pupil to accommodate their religion or belief, ethnicity, disability, or other special circumstances.

Religion or beliefs: Some religions and beliefs require their adherents to conform to a particular dress code or to otherwise outwardly manifest their belief. This could include wearing or carrying specific religious artefacts, not cutting their hair, dressing modestly, or covering their head. Pupils have the right to manifest a religion or belief, but not necessarily at all times, places or in a particular manner.

Where The Cornwall Independent School has good reason for restricting an individual's freedoms, for example, the promotion of cohesion and good order in the school, or genuine health and safety or security considerations, the restriction of an individual's rights to manifest their religion or belief may be justified. It should be possible for most religious requirements to be met within our uniform policy, and The Cornwall Independent School will act reasonably through consultation and dialogue in accommodating these.

Discrimination: In developing and implementing our school uniform policy, The Cornwall Independent School considers its obligations not to discriminate unlawfully. For example, whilst schools can designate different uniform requirements for boys and girls, girls' uniforms should not be significantly more expensive than boys' or vice-versa, as this may constitute unlawful sex discrimination. To avoid discriminating against those who share particular protected characteristics, we aim to be as inclusive as possible; we have a alternative options to make all pupils feel as comfortable as possible while wearing their uniform.

The Cornwall Independent School uniform policy tries to ensure that it is suitable for the school community, recognising that this community may change over time. If a requirement will affect a certain group with protected characteristics more than others, The Cornwall Independent School thinks very carefully about whether this requirement is the best way to achieve its aims and what mitigations could be put in place. Even when a policy has been agreed, The Cornwall Independent School allows for some individual variations to our uniform policy, where necessary to avoid indirect discrimination. For instance, reasonable adjustments are made, as appropriate, for pupils with a disability. The Cornwall Independent School understands that if it does not allow for these adjustments where they are necessary, this may constitute indirect discrimination.

Uniform (See Appendix 1 for uniform List): Our "The Cornwall Independent School" branded items of uniform are purchased from the school uniform store, some items e.g. shirts and trousers can be purchased from any store.

- All items of uniform and PE kit should be labelled inside using the pupil's full first name and surname.
- During the COVID pandemic, The Cornwall Independent School has enabled pupils to come into school in PE kit on the days they have PE or Games, rather than changing at school in more confined spaces. This change continues to be implemented as required. Any changes to policy will be communicated to parents by email or via the school newsletters etc.
- Pupils should wear a navy-blue school coat with the school logo; they should not be wearing their coats inside school during lesson time.
- A single stud earring in each ear and a wristwatch/Fitbit are the only permitted items of jewellery. No smart watches etc.
- Hair bands must be plain white, navy or blue. Hair longer than shoulder length must be tied back at all times of the school day.

The Headteacher's decision on all matters relating to a pupil's appearance is final.

Complaints and challenges to school uniform policy: Disputes about The Cornwall Independent School uniform should be resolved locally and should be pursued in accordance with The Cornwall Independent School complaints policy. Parents are able to lodge their complaints and objections easily. In the event of a complaint, The Cornwall Independent School Governance Advisory Board will consult and work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome. A school uniform should be inclusive, and The Cornwall Independent School aims to be considerate when implementing the policy so that our uniform is able to be worn by all pupils.

Pupil non-compliance: Teachers can discipline pupils for breaching The Cornwall Independent School rules on appearance or uniform. This should be carried out in accordance with our Positive Behaviour Code. The Cornwall Independent School deals with pupil non-compliance in a proportionate and fair way.

Appendix 1: Uniform List

Girls	Boys
Winter Uniform Navy blue blazer with school badge* Navy blue pullover with embroidered logo* Blue tartan kilt* School tie* (<i>Reception - Year 6</i>) White blouse (<i>Reception - Year 6</i>) Blue blouse (3/4 length sleeves) * (<i>Year 7 and above</i>) Long grey trousers (<i>Year 7 and above</i>) Navy blue or black hair accessories A navy blue or black coat this should not have large logos and must be suitable for PE and day to day school wear. Navy blue tights or navy-blue knee-length socks Black leather school shoes School Bookbag* (Primary)	Winter Uniform Navy blue blazer with school badge* Navy blue pullover with embroidered logo* Long grey trousers School tie* White shirt (<i>Reception - Year 6</i>) Blue shirt (<i>Year 7 and above</i>) Grey socks A navy blue or black coat this should not have large logos and must be suitable for PE and day to day school wear Black leather school shoes School Bookbag* (Primary)
Summer Uniform White socks Blue and white candy-striped regulation dress with white cuffs and pocket tops* (Primary only) Navy blue pullover with embroidered logo* Blue and white candy striped scrunchie Short or long grey trousers (<i>Year 7 and above</i>) A navy blue or black coat this should not have large logos and must be suitable for PE and day to day school wear. Black leather school shoes	Summer Uniform Short sleeved white shirt (primary) Short sleeved blue shirt (secondary) Navy blue pullover with embroidered logo* School tie* Short or long grey trousers A navy blue or black coat this should not have large logos and must be suitable for PE and day to day school wear. Black leather school shoes
Sports White t-shirt with school logo* Royal Blue shorts* (primary) School Sweatshirt with embroidered logo* Navy blue or black joggers (Primary) Navy blue/black sports leggings (Secondary) Trainers (school shoes must not be worn as PE footwear) Plain white sports socks One piece swimming costume (Reception-Y8 only) KS2 upwards - shin pads Gum shields (optional) KS3/4 navy skorts*	Sports White t-shirt with school logo* Royal Blue shorts* (primary) School sweatshirt with embroidered logo* Navy blue jogger's/tracksuit bottoms Trainers (school shoes must not be worn as PE footwear) Plain white sports socks Swimming trunks, jammers, shorts no longer than knee length (baggy board shorts are not allowed) (Reception-Y8 only) KS2 upwards - shin pads Gum shields (optional) Navy shorts (Secondary)

*** Items marked with an asterisk should be purchased from the school**

Summer dresses *may* be worn from Easter until Autumn half term but are compulsory for the summer term.

Key Stage 3 and 4 girls do not adopt the summer uniform.

Please ensure that **ALL** items brought to school are clearly named and labelled so we can return them easily when found around school.

Full uniform should be worn when children begin Reception Class.

No jewellery may be worn *except for* wristwatches (**No Smartwatches or those which are internet enabled**) and a single small plain gold/silver stud earring in each ear.